

Society for Technology Assessment, the International Association for Impact Assessment, the Association for Women in Development, the Ecological Society of America, etc. Two staff formed the Risk Assessment and Policy Association and others went on to found their own companies.

Above all else, OTA staff were teachers. As a result of their efforts, hundreds of thousands of people are better informed not only about science and technology but also about the structure and function of Congress. OTA served 30–60 congressional committee and subcommittees each year. Thirty-one Senators and Representatives had the privilege to serve on OTA's Technology Assessment Board and we became among the Congress' most knowledgeable members on issues of science and technology.

Each year, at least several hundred advisory panelists and workshop participants also took part in OTA's work. Some years, OTA tapped as many as 1,500 leaders from academia, non-governmental groups, State and local governments, and industry. OTA's advisors valued the experience and said it made them more fit for decisionmaking in their own fields. Some were experts; some were stakeholders. Still other were members of the larger public. As early as 1975, OTA incorporated public participation and stakeholder involvement into a major study of offshore energy development. Nearly 15,000 people were involved. Later approximately 800 African farmers and herders were included in an evaluation of the United States-funded African Development Foundation.

In addition, OTA provided 71 scientists and engineers with a challenging and memorable year on Capitol Hill as Morris K. Udall Congressional Fellows or congressional fellows in health policy. Many of OTA's younger employees gained a taste for research—and for public service—at OTA and went on to graduate school to become the next generation of business leaders, scientists, engineers, and policy analysts.

OTA's record depended upon remarkable support staff as much as it did on the agency's analytical staff. Their work was the standard against which other Government agencies were measured—and often found lacking. People came from around the world to attend OTA meetings—and often commented that OTA's workshops were the most well supported, best organized, and most productive they had ever attended. Contractors were gratified by the ease with which their travel arrangements and invoices were handled. OTA processed hundreds of security clearances efficiently and without incident—without which OTA could not have done its work in national defense. Reports sped through OTA's publishing process and grew steadily more attractive through the years. The staff of OTA's Information Center could find even the most obscure research material—and provided a friendly agencywide gathering place. The Information Center, the technical support office, and the agency's electronic dissemination program kept OTA at the cutting edge of technology for research and for public access to the agency's work.

OTA was a small agency. It was a generous place. For some, colleagues became like second families and these relationships extended to committee and personal staffs. Friendship, joy, and grief seemed to be shared without re-

gard to job description. Many at OTA value this legacy as much as any other. But of course, OTA was not perfect. At times, its greatest strengths—flexibility, tolerance, the preponderance of technical skills—became its biggest weaknesses. One outsider looked at OTA's work and commented, "You must have just about the most interesting job there is." I know that many at OTA, for much of their time, felt exactly that way.

Although OTA closes on September 29, 1995, the Congress will continue to benefit from its work. Stark evidence of the dedication of OTA staff is the fact that they continued working to the end. More than 30 reports will be delivered to requesting committees even after the doors are closed.

OTA soon will be a memory, and we will discover what is lost. But we can salvage something. Those of us who have used OTA reports know that most of them have long shelf lives. The really important issues—the issues OTA worked on—do not get solved and go away in one Congress. In January 1996, all of OTA's reports will be issued on CD-ROM—OTA's final legacy. We should be proud of it.

#### NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATION ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2274) to amend title 23, United States Code, to designate the National Highway System, and for other purposes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Lowey zero tolerance amendment to the national highway bill. At last, we have an amendment which will provide a Federal standard for making driving laws consistent with drinking laws. By restoring sensibility to our impaired driving laws, zero tolerance provisions make it illegal for underage persons to drink any amount of alcohol and then drive.

Driving inexperience and risk-taking behavior often leads teens to dangerous driving situations. If alcohol is introduced in the equation, it often becomes a deadly mixture. Research shows that young drivers are particularly susceptible to impaired judgment when driving under the influence of even small amounts of alcohol. A survey of Massachusetts teenagers who admitted consuming five or more drinks showed they were twice as likely to drive 20 miles over the speed limit, run red lights, and make illegal turns—and many without wearing their seat belts.

As of May 1995, 32 States and the District of Columbia have established lower blood alcohol contents [BAC's] for youthful drivers. Such provisions should be indiscriminately applied across all State lines, sending a clear message to our Nation's teens: If you are under 21 years old and are driving with any level of blood alcohol consumption, you will be considered intoxicated and your driver's license will be temporarily revoked.

Each year for the past decade, between 2,400 and 5,400 youths aged 15 to 24 were

killed in alcohol-related crashes. If this amendment were adopted, it is estimated at least 375 single vehicle night fatal crashes would be prevented each year. These are more than just numbers—these are lives.

I applaud my colleague from New York, Ms. LOWEY, for her leadership in offering this amendment. I believe the time has come for us to engage in a national debate over the merits of formulating a new comprehensive alcohol policy. To that end, I am planning to offer a comprehensive alcohol bill in the coming weeks and would encourage my colleagues to lend their support. One provision of this bill parallels the ideas conveyed in the amendment we are debating today—establishing a national zero tolerance law for underage drinking drivers.

Responsible legislating can be manifested in various forms. Passing the Lowey zero tolerance amendment is the responsible thing to do. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

#### FLOWER SHOW SPONSOR EXHIBITS MORE THAN LOVE OF FLOWERS

#### HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 1995*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend to you John Hordines, who sponsors an annual flower show in my district at his farm in East Branch, NY. In his third year of running this flower show, which he does at his own expense, Mr. Hordines will have 31 entries from as far away as Florida and California. He does it for the love of flowers. And it's evident that plenty of people in this country share his enthusiasm, since 20 million Americans raise flowers.

Mr. Hordines shows some qualities that I greatly admire: initiative, self-reliance, and generosity. His flower show, which is only open to amateurs, is a great example of these attributes. I encourage everyone to attend this year's flower show, which will be on October 1.

#### MORE BEIJING THREATS

#### HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 1995*

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, earlier in the year the House shamelessly handed the aging rulers of Communist China another bloodless victory. The House, the Senate, and the President gleefully renewed legislation granting most favored nation trading status to Red China.

I said then and I say now that kowtowing to the old boys in Beijing is a stain on American honor. Communist China has murdered millions. It runs the world's most sinister and extensive gulag. Its slave camps turn out textiles which put people in my State out of business. It continues systematic persecution of religious and political dissidents. The Beijing rulers even had the gall to arrest Chinese American freedom fighter Harry Wu and then threaten retaliation against American interests because